

**CHESTER-LE-STREET
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
6, RED ROSE TERRACE,
CHESTER-LE-STREET.**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1955.

J. L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

**CHESTER-LE-STREET
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
6, RED ROSE TERRACE,
CHESTER-LE-STREET.**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1955.



J. L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

**MEMBERS OF HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE, 1955**

Chairman: Councillor N. Pentland

Councillors:

S. Bell.
Mrs. E. Brown.
C. S. Brown.
J. Brown, J.P.
J. T. Brown.
R. W. Brown.
M. A. Bryan.
L. Connolly.
Mrs. M. Corbett.
P. Cowen.
J. Craggs.
J. W. Dryden.
Mrs. A. Errington, J.P.
I. D. Farish.
F. Fish.
Mrs. H. Garside.
H. R. Grayson.
R. F. Graham.
W. Graham.
C. R. Harvey.
Mrs. A. L. Hendry.
J. Jefferson.

Councillors:

Mrs. M. Leighton
J. S. Little.
Mrs. D. A. Morris.
L. McKie.
J. Neville.
S. J. Nugent.
Mrs. E. Pattison, J.P.
Mrs. F. Pegg.
R. Pimlett.
R. E. Pirrie.
J. Pounder.
Mrs. M. Richardson.
H. E. Sanders, J.P.
Mrs. M. Sanders.
Mrs. A. J. Scorer.
E. T. Selkirk.
J. T. Stocks.
R. H. Urwin.
R. W. Walker.
H. Wilkins.
Mrs. F. O. Winn.
N. Yarrow.

CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
6, RED ROSE TERRACE,
CHESTER-LE-STREET.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The Year 1955 is the first full year during which I have been Medical Officer of Health.

The health of the community during this period, as shown by the statistics available, appears to be reasonably satisfactory. There has been a big rise in infectious diseases cases notified, mainly due to an outbreak of measles. Scarlet Fever cases show a large fall, and new cases of tuberculosis were less than for the previous year. There were more cases of dysentery and of whooping cough.

There was a slight reduction in the number of deaths as compared with the previous year. Births have continued to fall, the standardised birth rate now being slightly below the rate for England and Wales. A black spot in the picture is the rise in the Infantile Mortality Rate which is much above the previous year, and above the rate for England and Wales. It has reached its highest level since 1947.

One noticeable feature during the year, which from a health point of view was very important, was the shortage of water which led to the eventual restriction of its use in certain areas. In the year 1955 it would appear that although we are developing atomic energy, we have still not adequately provided for the essentials required for health, in that an adequate supply of clean and wholesome water cannot always be provided.

The housing position showed little improvement. The re-housing from condemned property continues slowly; tenants from some of the worst properties were re-housed. There remains much to be done yet.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued help and support and also the staff of the Department for their efforts and enthusiasm during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. L. SIDDLE,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—(Joint Appointment with U.D.C.
and Durham C.C.)

J. L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTORS—

CHARLES W. ROBSON, C.R.S.I. and Certificate in Meat
Inspection of the R.S.I. (Southern Area).

TOM SAYER, M.R.S.I., C.R.S.T. and Certificate in Meat
Inspection of the R.S.I. (Northern Area).

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR—

KENNETH ROBERTSHAW

RODENT OFFICER—

WILLIAM MAUGHAN.

DISINFECTANT ATTENDANT—

JOHN CORKER.

CLERICAL STAFF—

VICTOR MOORE,

MARY ELIZABETH HARLAND. (Resigned 30th March, 1955).

RENEE HOLDEN. (Appointed 9th May, 1955).

A 50% grant is payable in respect of the salaries of the Medical
Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

			1954	1955	1931
AREA (acres)	...	...	22,226	22,226	26,923
POPULATION	...	...	41,110	41,160*	52,991
PERSONS PER ACRE	...		1.76	1.85	1.97
INHABITED HOUSES	...		12,102	12,140	12,026
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	£180,729	£307,468	£173,350
PENNY RATE PRODUCT	...		£664	£677	£635

* Registrar General's mid-year estimate including members of the armed forces stationed in area.



TABLE 1

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1953.

Based on Registrar-General's Provisional Figures	Rate per 1,000 Home Population	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Home Population.										Rate per 1,000 Live Births (Registered)
			All Causes	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	T.B. (All Forms)	Influenza	Coronary	Cancer of Lung	
England and Wales ...	15.0	23.1	11.7	0.00	0.01	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.07	1.59	0.39	24.9
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.9	23.2	11.6	0.00	0.01	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.06	1.60	0.45	25.1
160 Smaller Towns estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 19 1...	14.9	23.3	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.07	1.60	0.37	25.2
Chester-le-Street R.D. ...	14.9	16.1	10.5	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	1.48	0.21	50.5

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for 1955 was 41,160, as compared with 41,110 for 1954.

The population trend is shown by the figures given for the past ten years.

					<i>Reg. General's Est. population</i>
1946	...	...	...	...	40,720
1947	...	...	...	...	40,970
1948	...	...	...	...	40,850
1949	...	...	...	...	41,270
1950	...	...	...	...	41,180
1951	...	...	...	...	40,670
1952	...	...	...	...	40,710
1953	...	...	...	...	41,430
1954	...	...	...	...	41,110
1955	...	...	...	...	41,160

POPULATION OF PARISHES (1951 Census figures)

<i>Parish</i>				<i>Population 1951 Census</i>
Biddick South	...	...	...	41
Birtley	...	...	...	12,232
Bournmoor	...	...	...	1,588
Edmondsley	...	...	...	1,600
Harraton	...	...	...	3,057
Lambton	...	...	...	80
Lamesley	...	...	...	3,346
Great Lumley	...	...	...	1,525
Little Lumley	...	...	...	1,383
Ouston	...	...	...	991
Pelton	...	...	...	5,826
Plawsworth	...	...	...	1,762
Urpeth	...	...	...	2,046
Waldridge	...	...	...	644
Sacriston	...	...	...	4,871

Births

There was a slight decrease in the Birth Rate as compared with 1954. Total births were 613 for 1955, and 658 for 1954.

Live Births—

Legitimate: 285 male, 313 female.	Total	598
-----------------------------------	-------	-----

Illegitimate: 9 male, 6 female.	Total	15
---------------------------------	-------	----

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.9
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	14.7
--	-----	------

Still Births (5 female, 5 male). Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16.1
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths

The number of deaths during 1955 was 431, compared with 458 for 1954. The crude death rate being 10.5 for 1955; 11.1 was the figure for 1954.



TABLE 2

Deaths

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar General's figures):

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	244	187
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	7	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
3. Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9. Other Infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	8	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
14. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	29	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	40	30
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	38	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	9
20. Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	...	17	27
21. Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	8	10
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	16	13
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	13	12
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	16	20
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	14	4
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

TABLE 3

The following were the chief causes of death during the year:

	1955		1954	
	<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>% of total deaths</i>	<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>% of total deaths</i>
1. Diseases of heart and circulatory system ...	211	48.9	231	50.4
2. Cancer	75	17.4	89	19.4
3. Acute respiratory diseases	57	13.2	43	9.4
4. Violence (2 road traffic deaths, 18 other violent causes, 3 suicide)	23	5.3	29	6.3
5. Tuberculosis (all forms)	8	1.8	6	1.3

There is little variation in the proportional distribution of deaths as compared with 1954.

Diseases of heart and circulatory system continue to hold the leading place, being responsible for almost half of the total deaths.

There has been a rise in the proportion of deaths due to acute respiratory diseases.

The proportion of deaths due to cancer remains at much the same figure as for 1954. In analysing the individual figures it is of interest to note that deaths from cancer of the lung have fallen from 17 in 1954 to 9 in 1955.

The deaths from tuberculosis have, unfortunately, risen slightly.

Violent deaths have shown a fall, as compared with the previous year. There were two deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents, as compared with four for 1954. The importance of Prevention of Accidents Campaigns is clearly seen when we note that one in every 20 deaths in the district is the result of some form of accident or mishap.

Infantile Mortality

Deaths in children under 1 year of age numbered 31 as compared with 23 in 1954. This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 35.1 which is a considerable rise on the previous year's figure. It is much more than the figure for England and Wales as a whole.

Of the 16 deaths in babies under 4 weeks of age, 8 were due to prematurity, as compared with 7 during 1954.

The causes of prematurity are still the subject of much research and investigation. However, it does appear to be related in many cases to a toxic condition in the mother.

Early detection and treatment of such expectant mothers would probably lower the number of premature births.

To achieve this an improved ante-natal service would no doubt help, and it is along such lines that the present trend of thought is developing.

It is in these deaths between 4 weeks and 1 year that there has been a great rise during the year, and it is in this group that most preventable deaths occur. Of children dying between 4 weeks and 1 year of age, 6 were due to pneumonia; 3 due to enteritis; 1 due to bronchitis; 2 as a result of accidents, the other three being associated with congenital deformities, and therefore looked upon at the present time as non-preventable.

On analysis of these cases it could be said that unsatisfactory living conditions might have been partly responsible for one or two of these cases.

On the whole, however, I think we must look upon this rise as a temporary one, which will return to a reasonable level very quickly.

There is included at the end of the report under Appendix B, a graph showing the trend of Infantile Mortality Rate for the Rural District, as compared with that for England and Wales.

TABLE 4
INFANT DEATH ANALYSIS 1955.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Prematurity ...	8	...	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	9
Spina Bifida ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformation ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Hydrocephalus ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	1	...	1	...	2	4	1	1	...	8
Enteritis ...	...	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	4
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Haemorrhagic Purpura...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Intestinal Perforation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Asphyxia ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Accidents ...	...	...	..	...	...	1	1	..	...	2
TOTAL ...	12	1	3	...	16	8	5	2	...	31

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Laboratory Facilities

These continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle, under the direction of Dr. R. Norton.

Particulars of examinations undertaken are given below:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>
Diphtheria ...	1	1
Tuberculosis ..	347	92
Miscellaneous ...	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	63	14

(2) Local Health Authority Services

The Administrative County is divided up into twelve areas. Chester-le-Street Urban and Rural Districts forming No. 4 Area. For each area, a Health Sub-Committee has been appointed to exercise on behalf of the County Health Committee, certain functions relating to services under the National Health Services Act 1946.

All day-to-day administration of the County Service is carried out by County Headquarters. The Area Medical Officer deputises for the County Medical Officer of Health at quarterly meetings of the Area Sub-Committee.

(a) Health Visitor Service

There are 5 Health Visitors employed by the County Council working in the Chester-le-Street Rural District. A survey of the work done by them is given below:—

Visits paid to:—

Maternity and Child Welfare	9,682
Tuberculosis	1,261
School Work	944
General Health	145
Mental Deficiency	392
Age'd People	67

Summary:—

Ineffective Visits	1,172
Total number of visits	13,663
Number of effective visits	12,491
Time (as days) spent on visits (Routine, other and ineffective)	559
Average daily number of effective visits per health visitor	22

*Clinics, etc., Work:—**Time (as days)
Spent:*

(a) at Maternal and Child Welfare Clinics	304
(b) at Chest Clinics and contact sessions	146
(c) at School Head to Head inspections	23
(d) conducting children to special schools	3
(e) assisting with school medical inspections	13

(b) Clinics

In the rural district during the year the County Council had 3 clinics which were utilised in connection with local health authority services in the district. In some cases the clinics held in the Urban District are more convenient for certain of the rural district inhabitants so that these have been included in the table show.

Address of Centre	Sessions
Hexham Villa, Birtley. Telephone No. 52.	<i>Ante-Natal</i> ... Fridays weekly except first afternoon in month <i>Child Welfare</i> ... Mondays weekly. <i>Birth Control—</i> First Friday morning in <i>Post-Natal.</i> each month. <i>Ultra Violet Ray</i> Monday and Friday morn- ings weekly.
Mains Farm House, West Lane, Chester-le-Street. Telephone No. 3286.	<i>Ante-Natal</i> ... Tuesdays weekly and alter- nate Thursday mornings. <i>Child Welfare</i> Wednesdays weekly. <i>Birth Control—</i> Alternate Thursday after- <i>Post-Natal.</i> noons. <i>Ultra Violet Ray</i> Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings weekly.
Miners' Welfare Hall, West Pelton.	<i>Ante-Natal</i> ... Alternate Wednesdays. <i>Child Welfare</i> ... Alternate Wednesdays.
Old Relief Office. Front Street, Sacriston.	<i>Ante-Natal</i> ... Alternate Thursday morn- ings. <i>Child Welfare</i> ... Alternate Thursday morn- ings and Thursday after- noons (3 weeks out of 4 weeks). <i>Birth Control—</i> Thursday afternoons every <i>Post-Natal.</i> 4 weeks.

(c) *Welfare Foods*

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

National dried milk, orange juice, cod liver oil and vitamin tablets are distributed from centres in the area as shown.

<i>Address of Centre</i>	<i>Sessions</i>
Hexham Villa, Birtley. Tel. No. 52	Monday and Friday: 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Old Relief Office, Front Street, Sacriston	Thursday: 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Community Centre, Pelton	Tuesday: 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Miners' Welfare Hall, West Pelton	Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Post Office, Great Lumley	Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Methodist Church, Nettleworth ...	Alternate Wednesdays: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Miners' Welfare Hall, Kibblesworth	Wednesdays (monthly): 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

(d) *Domiciliary Midwifery & Home Nursing Services*

The following statements give details of the work done and the staff employed:—

Domiciliary Midwifery

Staff	Cases—Mid- wifery and Maternity	Cases dis- charged from hospital before 14 days
5 district midwives		
4 district nurse midwives	251	119

Home Nursing

Staff	Medical		Surgical		Tuberculosis		Total Cases	
	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits
4 district nurses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 district nurse midwives	399	15,306	849	8,717	23	94	1,271	24,117

Included in Total

Patients 65 years and over	Visits
332	33,792
Patients 5 years and under	Visits
77	2,718

(e) Ambulance Service

The service is run by the County Council. The Chester-le-Street Urban and Rural Districts are served principally by the ambulance depot situated at Osborne Road, Chester-le-Street. This depot is in charge of a head driver and has an establishment of 14 drivers and 6 ambulances. All requests for ambulance transport reach the depot via the Durham Control which is manned by a team of 4 clerk-telephonists maintaining a 24-hour service.

When necessary, either in the interests of economy or in order to reinforce the Chester-le-Street Depot, vehicles from the neighbouring depot are utilised in the transport of patients in the area.



Figures showing the extent to which the service is used are given below:—

No. of calls	No. of Journeys	Patients carried			Mileage
		Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
7,420	5,412	3,114	17,431	20,545	115,225

(f) *Domestic Help*

Domestic helps are provided by the County Council where necessary in cases of sickness, childbirth, infirmity or other household emergencies.

Domestic Help cases during 1954

Cases provided with home help at 1st January, 1955	164
New cases	55
Cases provided with home help during the year ...	219
Maternity Cases	2
Old Age Pensioners	206
Sickness Cases	8
Tuberculosis	3
Number of home helps employed — 111	219

(g) *Prevention of Illness Care and Aftercare*

Under this section of the National Health Service Act the Durham County Council supply nursing requisites on loan to those needing them. A fee is charged, the assessment of which depends on income and the type of article borrowed. All the articles are stored in Durham City and have to be brought out to the place where they are required.

(h) *School Health Service*

The School Health Service is run by the Durham County Council from the headquarters in Durham City.

The clinic for the bulk of Chester-le-Street Rural District school children is in Birtley. The clinic is open daily and is attended on Monday and Wednesday by a School Medical Officer.

Routine medical inspections of children are carried out in the schools by a School Medical Officer.

(3) Hospital Services

The hospitals in Chester-le-Street are administered by the Durham Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.

Outpatients Clinics

(a) Tuberculosis

Consultations by appointment at Chest Clinic, Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street (Tel.: 3317).

(b) Venereal Diseases

Confidential treatment is provided free at the following centres, appointment not being required:—

- (i) Newcastle General Hospital (Tel. 3-3320): Monday—Friday, 9 a.m.—12 noon, 1.30—7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
- (ii) County Hospital, Durham (Tel. 7) Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m.—7.30 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 1 p.m.—7 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.—5.30 p.m.

(c) General Hospital Chester-le-Street (Tel.: 2001)

General medical, general surgical, ophthalmic ear, nose and throat and physiotherapy facilities are available, both as in-patients and out-patients (by appointment).

(d) Psychiatry

A psychiatric out-patient clinic is held at the County Hospital Durham, (Tel. 2571) each Monday. Patients are seen by appointment only.

(4) Executive Council Service

The executive council for the County of Durham is the body responsible for the administration of the General Practitioner Service in the District.

There are 10 general practitioners residing in the district.

(5) Health Education

The sound film projector which is provided by the County Council and is available for use by District Medical Officers, is utilised in the district.

Members of the Health Department attended various organisations during the year to give talks on matters affecting the health of the population.

During the year the Health Committee agreed to send out suitable leaflets and posters to the General Practitioners in the district for use in their surgery waiting rooms.

The booklet called "Better Health" which is published by the Central Council for Health Education is now supplied to General Practitioners, Members of the Health Committee, and Head Teachers in the District.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water

Water is supplied to the district by three water undertakings, namely, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, the National Coal Board (Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Group) and the Durham County Water Board. The distribution system is complex and in addition to direct supplies the Council distributes water.

It is unfortunate that we must record here the introduction of water rationing in the area towards the latter part of the year.

The Summer was exceptionally dry, and this weather persisted afterwards, the result being that the available supply of water in the reservoirs became very low. Self-imposed rationing, introduced through advertising the position, helped to postpone curtailment of supplies until December. Fortunately the rationing did not last very long—nevertheless there was a severe shortage of water, and in the year 1955.

There is no doubt that the building of much improved housing, with provision of bathrooms and water closets has made great demands on the water supply, and the consumption of water will continue to rise.

It is to be hoped that the fact that rationing had to be introduced will have caused a review of the present position which will result in a prevention of such an occurrence again.

Bacteriological sampling in 1955 gave the following results. The Ministry of Health's recommendations are given for comparison.

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Ministry of Health's recommendation	50 + %	80 + %	100 %	0
Samples Durham County				
Water Board	41 (91%)	3 (98%)	1 (100%)	—
Samples other undertakings	49 (94%)	3 (100%)	—	(100%) —

Samples of water from the three water undertakings were sent for complete chemical analysis during the year. The results are summarised below:—

Source of Supply			
	Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co.	Lambton Hetton & Joicey C.	Durham Co. Water Board
Chemical Results	parts per million	parts per million	parts per million
Total solids dried at 180° C. ...	120	455	114
Chlorine as chlorides	12.4	30.2	10.7
Free Ammonia	0.04	Trace	None
Albuminoid ammonia	0.07	0.03	0.10
Nitrogen as nitrates	Trace	1.60	0.40
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. at 80° F.)	2.2	0.2	2.6
Total hardness	76	284	66
Permanent hardness	16	14	11
Temporary hardness	60	270	55
Lead and copper	None	None	None
Iron	0.1	0.1	0.3
Appearance and Colour	Pale yellow & clear	Almost colourless & clear	Pale yellow & clear
Smell and taste	S'factory	S'factory	S'factory
Microscopical examination of deposit	S'factory	S'factory	S'factory
PH value	7.0	7.6	7.2

Report of Analyst

NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD WATER CO.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. The water is of very good colour, it has been adequately filtered and it is free from odour or taste.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public Supply.

LAMBTON, HETTON & JOICEY CO.

This sample of water is of excellent organic purity and colour, but it contains a considerable amount of hardness.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for drinking, but owing to its hardness it is not so suitable for domestic use.

DURHAM COUNTY WATER BOARD

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity; it is well filtered and it is free from odour and taste.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public Supply.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year the following lengths of soil and surface water sewers were laid:—

9" dia. 1065 yards.

6" dia. 571 yards.

In addition other general works of maintenance and repairs were effected to the considerable mileage of sewers under the Council's control.

With regard to Sewage Disposal, apart from normal maintenance the scheme to provide new sludge drying beds at the Edmondsley Works was completed and are now functioning efficiently.

A similar scheme for the Sacriston Works was also approved and a start made. It should be completed by mid 1956.

The improvements to the works at Waldrige have proved successful.

The schemes for Grange Villa, Floaters Mill and Birtley were not submitted during the year but at the time of preparing this report I am pleased to say that the schemes are well in hand. Constructional work on these schemes should not be long delayed as at Grange Villa a general water closet conversion scheme for the village is held up pending the completion of the new sewerage scheme. At Floaters Mill serious pollution of the Lumley Burn continues from these works.

At Birtley the position is very acute as with the inadequacy of the Newtown Pumping Station serious pollution of the Rowletch Burn occurs and the Council's Housing development of 28 acres at Barley Mow is held up pending completion of the new scheme. The contributing areas of Pelton and Birtley can only be similarly affected if this scheme is not soon proceeded with.

LUMLEY BURN

During the year, complaints were received regarding the smell arising from this burn. Investigations were carried out, and the matter was taken up with the Rivers Pollution Board.

The stream flows for some distance through various districts before it reaches the Chester-le-Street Rural Area. It carries effluent from 9 sewage works and 7 trade premises.

The results of investigations indicate that inadequately treated sewage is a large factor in the production of the smell.

As far as the Rural District is concerned schemes are being prepared so that their works in this area will be abandoned and the sewage will be pumped to Sedgeleth Works of the Houghton U.D.C.

Certain plant at the Lambton Coke Works should also help.

In the course of investigations, paratyphoid organisms were isolated. A check on all the sewers from the Rural District showed no such infection, and the origin must have been at some point outside the area.

3. Closet Accommodation

A general conversion scheme for those ashpits remaining in the Grange Villa, Sacriston, Edmondsley, etc., areas has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. No decision is available at the moment but it is unlikely that those at Grange Villa will be approved due to inadequate sewage disposal facilities. In view of the scheme for these works having been prepared it should be possible to have these conversions done.

The Council continued to give financial assistance to owners and owner occupiers, towards the cost of the conversion.

There were 47 such conversions carried out during 1955.

4. Public Cleansing

This service has continued satisfactorily during 1955.

Bins continue to be emptied twice and ashpits once per week, with negligible complaint.

The Bin ownership scheme operated by the Council as a general rate charge since 1st April, 1954, has got well under way and is operating satisfactorily.

Information under foregoing paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 has been largely supplied by the Surveyor.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Again nuisances under the Public Health Act have been largely abated by persuasion, it only being necessary to serve 38 formal notices. 111 informal notices were served, 109 being complied with.

6. Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928

39 licences were issued during the year for the storage of 38,690 gallons of petrol. 8 licences were issued for the storage of 1,001 tons, 18 cwt., 3 stones, 10 lb. of calcium carbide and two licences were granted for the storage of 105 gallons of naphtha.



7. Rats and Mice (Prevention and Damage by Pests Act, 1949)

	<i>Dwelling Houses</i> (inc. <i>Local Auth'ty</i>)		<i>All Other</i> <i>Council Houses</i> (inc. <i>B'ness Premises</i>)	<i>Total of Cols. (1) & (2)</i>	<i>Agri-cul-tural</i> (3)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	105	12140	1102	13347	176
ii. Number of <i>properties inspected</i> as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	26	148	30	204	5
(b) Survey under the Act	5	27	4	36	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	—	—	—	—
iii. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	106	251	62	419	58
iv. Number of <i>properties inspected</i> (in Sect. II) which were found to be <i>infested</i> by:—					
(a) Rats—					
Major	—	1	1	2	1
Minor	26	77	9	112	4
(b) Mice—					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	69	—	69	—
v. Number of <i>infested properties</i> (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sect. IV)	26	147	10	183	5
vi. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	118	475	96	689	21

The general condition of the area is reasonably satisfactory.

Leaflets illustrating methods for householders, and detailing the provisions of the Act, together with the Threshing and Disinfecting of Ricks Regulations, 1950, are available from the Health Department.

8. Swimming Baths and Pools

During the year 14 samples of water for bacteriological examinations have been taken from the two swimming baths; 1 only was suspicious.

9. Disinfestation, Eradication of Bed Bugs, Flies, etc.

44 cases were dealt with during the year: in 1 case bedding required special treatment, which was destroyed.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Occu- piers Written notice prose- cuted</i>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	15	— —
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Authority	80	314	— —
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	65	— —
TOTAL ...	91	394	— —



SECTION D.

HOUSING

Housing statistics for the year are given below; firstly showing action taken during the year with regard to existing properties; secondly figures for completion of new houses, and lastly allocation of houses.

Housing Statistics

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after serving of formal notices:—

(a) By owners —

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... —

A—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 111.

- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after serving formal notices 38

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... —

B—Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 35

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in respect of pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 22

C—Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1953—section 10:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which a Closing Order was made 15

LEGACIES OF THE PAST



Potential Slum Clearance.



Still To Be Dealt With.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Post War Housing.



Black Fell Caravan Site.

New Houses

Building of Council houses commenced in 1947 after the War, and the following is the progress:

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
New Permanent Houses	62	216	171	125	127	190	297	274	145	1607
Temporary Houses	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101
Relets ...	52	108	71	66	42	70	56	139	118	722
	215	324	242	191	169	260	353	413	263	2430

The figure of 145 new permanent houses completed includes 16 flats.

Allocation of Houses During the Year

List

A	Direct Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	51
B	Overcrowding and living in	...	...	...	...	42
B1	Length of time married and living in	...	...	...	...	27
C	Condemned property	...	...	...	...	36
	M.O.H. recommendation	...	...	...	...	6
	Homeless on Eviction	...	...	...	...	4
	Development Scheme	...	...	...	...	10
					—	56
	Single Persons' Flats	...	...	...	...	8
	Single Persons' Flats (relet)	...	...	...	...	2
	Aged Persons' Houses (relet)	...	...	...	...	10
	Aged Persons' Flats	...	...	...	...	8
	Special Housing for travelling miners	...	...	...	...	19
					—	223

In addition to the above there were 117 transfers and exchanges granted, involving 212 families, largely relieving overcrowding, on health grounds, economic reasons and to place people nearer to work.

The figures showing the allocation of houses during the year have been supplied by the Housing Manager.

General Remarks on Housing

The provision of adequate housing for a community, is for the purpose of maintaining the health of the people. If this statement is accepted, then it is obvious that the housing should be utilised to provide accommodation for those whose health is being adversely affected by their present accommodation. In my opinion the order of priority in rehousing should be firstly, those in insanitary houses, followed in order by overcrowded and living in; overcrowding in a single family, and finally living in without overcrowding.

Rehousing on medical grounds, mainly on account of tuberculosis should of course be outside any general policy on housing allocations. I feel that too little has been done during the year in this direction. The provision of good housing to a case of tuberculosis can make all the difference between reasonable health and chronic invalidism.

I feel also, that insufficient attention was given during the year to rehousing from insanitary houses. However, at the time of writing, it appears that this problem is to solve itself, and that the pendulum is swinging to the opposite side, so that more emphasis is to be placed on dealing with the unfit houses.

Unfit Houses

At the end of the year, 128 condemned houses were still in occupation.

The estimated number of unfit houses in the district as supplied to the Minister on the return required under the Repairs and Rents Act, 1953, was 1,200. The Council continued to allocate 15% of lettings to persons from condemned property. This of course has only scratched the surface. Nevertheless 36 families were rehoused from condemned property during the year, and this was a big improvement on 1954 when only 12 were dealt with.

During 1955 no Improvement Grants had been made. However, it appears likely that the policy of the Council with regard to these Grants might be changed. Proper use of improvement grants could bring large numbers of houses up to modern standards without excessive expense.

Medical Priority

During the year 59 cases claiming medical priority were investigated. The results of these investigations are given below:

TABLE 5

Cases requesting priority rehousing on medical grounds

Total number investigated during 1955: 59.

	Grounds for claiming priority	
	T.B.	Other Diseases
Number recommended to the Housing Com.	11	8
Number granted priority rehousing	6	3
Number deferred for 12 months	3	1

These figures should be examined in conjunction with my remarks on tuberculosis, and under the heading General Remarks on Housing.



SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

New legislation regarding Food Hygiene had not come into force by the end of the year. The Clean Food Handling Byelaws still however assisted the Inspectors in achieving a reasonably high standard of hygiene.

Throughout the country concern has been aroused by the increasing number of cases of food poisoning and dysentery. As far as the Rural District is concerned there have been 18 cases of dysentery, and two of food poisoning notified during 1955. There are of course, many more cases which occur, but are never notified—many in fact who never see a doctor.

Every effort has been made to check any spread of disease by foodstuffs. Chinese dried egg albumen appeared as a possible source of infection, and although no contaminated material was found in the Rural area, two positive samples were found in an adjoining district, the bakers concerned selling large amounts of foodstuffs in the Rural District.

During the year two cases were brought to the notice of the Health Committee concerning articles of food. In one case a beetle, and in another a screw was found in a cake. The Council did not prosecute, but sent a warning letter to the firms concerned.

The Inspectors continued their everyday campaign, advising and educating food handlers, and continued the routine work of sending samples of foodstuffs for bacteriological check as to purity. The results of this work are given below:

Ice Cream

The results of sampling for qualitative analysis as given below show that the samples were all satisfactory.

Grade	No.
1	16
2	1
3	—
4	—

Meat and Other Foods

Figures for inspection of meat are as under.

2,758 animals were slaughtered during the year.

MEAT:

Total weight condemned: 11 cwt., 1 st., 1 lb.

See Table No. 10, page 44.

OTHER FOODS:

Total weight condemned: 16 cwt., 2 qr., 1 st., 6 lbs., 8 ozs.

See page 45.

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

On the register at 31st December, 1955.

Dairies (not dairy farms)	2
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Following licences issued during 1955.

Dealers' Licences to use the designation T.T.	1
---	-----	-----	---

(c) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during 1955.

Dealers' Licences to use special designation Pasteurised	22
Dealers' Licences to use special designation Sterilised	71
Dealers' Licences to use special designation T.T.	
Pasteurised	10
Supplementary Licences for above	4

(d) Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Premises registered under Act:

Ice Cream Sale and Storage 88

Premises manufacturing Sausages, Potted Meats and
Preserved Foods 49**Number of Other Food Premises in the Area**

Restaurants and Canteens 11

Cafes and Snack Bars 3

Shops

Butchers 17

General Dealers/Grocers 148

Greengrocers 6

Confectionery 26

Wet Fish 3

Fried Fish 27

Licensed Premises (Hotels and Bars, including Work-
men's Clubs) 68

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of Cases	36	12	6	10	0	2	1	0	0	1
Deaths	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The number immunised during the year were as under:—

Primary—0 - 5 years	...	...	...	...	369
5 - 15 years	...	...	...	...	40
					<hr/> 409
Boosters	...	...	...	...	293

The table below shows the number of children under 15 years of age who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to December 31st, 1955. Calculated from these figures about 60% of all children below the age of 15 years have been protected. We should not be content until the percentage is at least 70%.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1955.

Age at 31.12.55 i.e., born in the year		Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6
		1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
		<hr/> 25	<hr/> 255	<hr/> 369	<hr/> 389	<hr/> 391	<hr/> 424	<hr/> 437
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
<hr/> 1948	<hr/> 1947	<hr/> 1946	<hr/> 1945	<hr/> 1944	<hr/> 1943	<hr/> 1942	<hr/> 1941	<hr/> —
<hr/> 515	<hr/> 513	<hr/> 506	<hr/> 377	<hr/> 419	<hr/> 323	<hr/> 422	<hr/> 525	<hr/> 5890

Poliomyelitis

There was only one case notified during the year; four were notified during 1954.

At the time of writing this report the Minister of Health had just made a statement concerning the vaccination of children against this disease.

Vaccination is to start during 1956, although to a limited extent. As more vaccine becomes available the scheme is to be extended.

The introduction of vaccination should, we hope, mark the beginning of the end for poliomyelitis.

Measles

There were 643 cases notified during the year, as compared with 108 during 1954.

NOTIFICATION OF MEASLES								
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of Cases ...	520	372	565	224	724	188	108	643

The rise expected in 1954 did not materialize, but it has now shown itself during the first part of 1955.

Whooping Cough

There were only 191 cases notified during 1955, an increase of 104, as compared with 1954.

NOTIFICATION OF WHOOPING COUGH								
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of Cases ...	117	140	175	120	126	169	87	191

The total for the year is the highest figure since the war.

In the last report it was suggested that immunisation against Whooping Cough by the General Practitioners might have been responsible for the fall in numbers; however, since this reduction has not been maintained, it seems unlikely that the number of children immunised by the General Practitioners has greatly affected the position. If immunisation was carried out on a large scale, I feel sure that we would see a substantial reduction in the number of cases of this disease.



Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)

In the district there were seven deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis as against six the previous year. New notifications number 30, the figure for 1954 being 49, which shows a big improvement.

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS DUE TO PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS								
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of Cases ...	57	38	46	56	37	26	49	30
Deaths ...	21	21	12	9	10	8	6	7

Pulmonary tuberculosis is at the present time the most important infectious disease, and the one against which all possible action should be taken.

The only infectious disease for which more notifications are received, include Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping Cough. Generally speaking none of these diseases is serious or prolonged, whereas in the case of pulmonary tuberculosis, it is as a rule, an extremely long and often serious condition, with in some cases prolonged invalidism.

Birtley once again shows a high figure; there were 19 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in Birtley out of the total of 30.

The number for 1954 was 24, out of 49.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

There were two new cases notified as against four for 1954. There was one death.

During the year, the first scheme in the district for B.C.G. Vaccination of school-leavers was carried out. This was limited to Birtley, and the figures are shown in the following table.

CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT

B.C.G. Vaccination

School	No. of forms distributed	CONSENTS Number	% of total distributed	MANTOUX Number	Positive	% Positive	No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	% of total consents who were vaccinated
Birtley—East								
Sec. Modern	114	103	90	89	50	57.4	37	35.9
George St.								
Sec. Modern	18	15	83	15	6	46.1	7	46.6
Birtley St.								
Joseph's R.C.								
Senr. ...	35	35	100	35	13	37.1	21	60.0
TOTALS	167	153	90	139	69	51.7	65	42.4

It is of note that over 50% of the children in the school-leaving group were tuberculin positive.

This is a much higher figure than is usually found, even in Urban districts.

The B.C.G. scheme will not of course result in an immediate reduction in the number of new cases of tuberculosis, but it is hoped that in future years, the number of young persons developing the active disease will be much smaller.

Nor does the introduction of the scheme mean that we must be any less active with regard to our other efforts in trying to improve living conditions etc.

TABLE 6

<i>Age at Death</i>	1955		1954	
	<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>%</i>
Under 1 year	31	7.2	23	5.0
1-4 years	1	0.2	2	0.4
5-14 years	8	1.9	2	0.4
15-24 years	3	0.7	8	1.7
25-44 years	14	3.2	30	6.5
45-64 years	101	23.5	104	22.8
65-74 years	129	29.9	127	27.8
75 years and upwards ...	144	33.4	162	35.4

TABLE 7

STATISTICS OF THE 15 PARISHES FORMING THE CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT.

	Acreage (acres)	No. of Inhabited Houses	Deaths
Biddick South	348	12	
Birtley	1429	3256	145
Bournmoor	513	493	11
Edmondsley	2099	431	14
Harraton	2669	904	34
Lambton	697	28	4
Lamesley	5679	1300	34
Lumley Great	1642	485	13
Lumley Little	875	387	18
Ouston	641	303	9
Pelton	926	1801	64
Plawsworth	1248	456	7
Urpeth	1825	597	20
Waldridge	725	180	10
Sacriston	910	1507	48
	22226	12140	431

TABLE 8.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

General Summary

	Number of Inspections	Number of Informal Notices Served	Number of Statutory Notices Served	Defects remedied after Notice	Legal Proceedings & General Remarks
Housing:—					
Public Health & Housing Acts	896	111	38	645	
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Accom. :—					
Insufficient	—	—	—	629	
Defective	126	29	—	—	
Drainage	38	9	—	9	
Water Supply	31	6	—	6	
Food Premises	400	—	—	—	
Shops Act (Sect. 10) ...	400	—	—	—	
Dairies	—	—	—	—	
Slaughter Houses:—					
Public	—	—	—	—	
Private	250	—	—	—	
Tents, Vans, etc.	62	—	—	—	
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	
Factories & Workplaces	394	—	—	—	
Keeping of Animals ...	3	—	—	—	
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	702	11	—	11	Survey
Offensive accumulations	—	—	—	—	
Smoke Nuisances ...	100	13	—	13	Domestic/ Obs.
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ...	1044	—	—	—	
TOTALS	4446	179	38	713	

TABLE 9.

Summary of Works carried out

Defective eavesgutters, etc.	...	...	...	47
Defective W.C.	...	...	...	29
Defective sinks	...	...	...	3
Defective wallplaster	...	...	...	22
Defective weatherboard	...	...	...	8
Defective pantry	...	...	...	1
Defective windows	...	...	...	33
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	1
Dampness	...	...	...	14
Defective doors	...	...	...	15
Burst pipes	...	...	...	6
Defective W.C. roof	...	...	...	1
Defective chimney stack	...	...	...	4
Defective ceilings	...	...	...	15
Defective drains	...	...	...	9
Smoke and nuisances	...	...	...	13
Defective roof	...	...	...	31
Defective kitchen range	...	...	...	13
Defective outhouses	...	...	...	4
Defective floors	...	...	...	6
Defective ovens	...	...	...	3
Redecoration	...	...	...	2
Defective ash closets	...	...	...	11
Defective pantry	...	...	...	15
Defective pointing	...	...	...	10

TABLE 10

MEAT INSPECTION**Carcases and Offal and condemned in whole or in part**

				<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs Horses</i>	
No. killed (if known)	...	...	...	83	146	1	1575	953	—
No. Inspected	...	...	...	83	146	1	1575	953	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—</i>									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	9	8	—	2	3	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	...	...	...	10.0	5.5	—	0.1	0.3	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	1	2	—	—	11	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	...	1.2	1.3	—	—	1.3	—

TABLE 11

The following meat and other foods were condemned and dealt with in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food:

	lbs.
Lungs	20
Livers	191
Pig Heads	210
Beef	388
Pork	353
Mutton	85
Total	1,247

Total weight condemned: 11 cwt., 1 st., 1 lb.

Other Foods

	lbs.	ozs.			lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meat ...	594	8	Sausage ...	...	28	4
Tinned Fruit ...	275	4	Cake ...	...	90	0
Tinned Tomatoes ...	420	0	Margarine ...	...	11	0
Tinned Vegetables	79	12	Cheese ...	...	43	0
Tinned Milk ...	101	4	Meat Paste ...	...		4
Tinned Beans ...	13	8	Fish Cakes ...	...	4	4
Tinned Peas ...	14	12	Butter ...	...	15	12
Tinned Crab ...	1	0	Bacon ...	...	20	0
Tinned Salmon ...		8	Mincemeat ...	...	1	0
Tinned Soup ...	4	12	Jam ...	...	25	4
Tinned Coffee ...		8	Chutney ...	...	1	0
Tinned Fish ...	4	12	Puddings ...	...	45	0
Tinned Macaroni ...	1	0	Jellies ...	...	1	8
Tinned Cream ...		4	Onions ...	...		8
Ham & Tongue ...	63	4	Eggs ...	...	6	12
					<hr/>	
					1,868	8
					<hr/>	

Total weight condemned: 16 cwt., 2 qrs., 1 st., 6 lbs., 8 ozs.



TABLE 12.
Infectious Disease Notifications since 1946.

DISEASE	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	5	...	2
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	49	59	189	176	83	133	140	102	85	32
Diphtheria	36	12	6	10	...	2	1	...	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	5	1	3	2	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection	10	9	4	2	6	1	1	3	...	2
Poliomyelitis	...	13	...	...	6	1	8	1	4	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	94	70	120	125	138	114	70	47	60	48
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	7	4	4	2	3	2	5	3	2
Erysipelas	11	8	20	8	4	1	1	1	2	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	2	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Dysentery	1	2	...	1	5	1	1	7	9	18
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	58	55	57	38	46	56	37	26	49	30
Non-pulmonary	22	20	15	17	11	13	11	9	4	2
Measles	233	406	520	372	565	224	742	188	108	643
Whooping Cough	131	37	117	140	175	120	126	169	87	191
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
†Diagnosis not confirmed	30	35	35	68	22	21	19	11	9	10

† Due to Quarterly Infectious Return

TABLE 14

The attack rates of the notifiable diseases per 1,000 of the civilian population for the Rural District, compared with the rates for England and Wales are shown in the following table:

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Chester-le-Street Rural District</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0.77	1.13
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	0.00
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	0.01
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	1.16	1.27
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	0.05	0.04
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	4.64	1.68
Measles	...	...	...	15.62	3.51
Poliomyelitis (all forms)	...	...	...	0.02	0.03
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	...	0.97	0.91



TABLE 15.
CANCER DEATHS (AGE GROUPS AND SITES.)

AGE GROUP	Buccal Cavity (A44)		Stomach (A46)		Intestines except Rectum (A47)		Rectum (A48)		Trachea Lungs ETL (A50)		Breast (A51)		Uterus (A52 & 53)		Prostate (A54)		All others		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
0-4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25-44	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
45-64	...	...	6	2	2	2	2	5	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	20
65-74	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	15
75 and upwards	1	...	...	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	...	10
TOTAL...	1	...	10	7	3	5	3	8	1	2	...	3	...	2	20	10	47	28		

N.B. Group Nos. refer to Intermediate List of 150 causes (International Classification)

TABLE 16

The following table gives the vital statistics of the district for 1955 and previous years:

Year	Estimated Resident Population Mid-Year	Births		Deaths		Infant Mortality Rate †	Maternal Mortality Rate ‡
		No.	Crude Rate*	No.	Crude Rate*		
1945	39,190	778	19.0	480	12.2	64	2.57
1946	40,720	907	21.4	452	11.1	47	0.00
1947	40,970	845	20.6	482	11.7	56	1.14
1948	40,850	851	20.8	438	10.7	50	3.45
1949	41,270	714	17.3	490	11.9	46	0.00
1950	41,180	729	17.7	488	11.9	47	1.32
1951	40,670	700	17.2	496	12.2	46	1.39
1952	40,710	672	16.5	438	10.8	33	0.00
1953	41,430	697	17.2	428	10.3	30	0.00
1954	41,110	658	16.0	458	11.1	35	0.00
1955	41,160	613	14.9	431	10.5	51	0.00

* Per 1,000 population. (total.)

† Per 1,000 live births. (registered.)

‡ Per 1,000 (live and still) births. (registered.)

TABLE 17.

	1896	1921	1955
Population	58,000	71,580	41,160
Births	2,157	2,298	613
Crude Birth Rate	38.09	31.82	14.9
Deaths	1,083	851	431
Crude Death Rate	19.00	13.03	10.5
Infant Deaths	394	270	31
Infant Mortality Rate	182	117	51
Deaths from the seven principal			
Zymotic Diseases	212	126	—
Scarlet Fever Cases	553	378	32
Typhoid Fever Cases	108	6	—
Diphtheria Cases	57	130	1

[TABLE 18.]

New cases and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1955:—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-4 ...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
5-14 ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-24 ...	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
25-44 ...	6	4	...	1	1	...	...	1
45-64 ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
65-74 ...	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
75 & over ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	17	13	...	2	7	...	...	1

TABLE 19

Notifications and deaths occurring in the Rural District during the past five years:

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				Non-Pulmonary	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1951	56	9	13	5	—
1952	37	10	11	—	—
1953	26	8	9	1	—
1954	49	16	4	—	—
1955	30	7	2	1	—

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register were as follows:

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
December 31st, 1951 ...	220	177	87	110	594
December 31st, 1952 ...	168	134	31	47	380
December 31st, 1953 ...	159	128	27	42	356
December 31st, 1954 ...	166	127	28	40	361
December 31st, 1955 ...	160	138	18	31	347

* 8.4 per 1,000-civilian population.





